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DEPT FOR IO-RHS AND DRL-IRF

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UNGA](#) [UG](#)  
SUBJECT: UGANDA: DEMARCHE RESPONSE - DEFAMATION OF  
RELIGIONS UNGA VOTE

REF: STATE 122637

(SBU) Poloff Delivered reftel points urging Uganda to abstain on the UNGA Defamation of Religions vote to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Multilateral Affairs Officer Isaac Sebulime on December 1. Sebulime said that Uganda, as an OIC member, would support the resolution. Poloff noted that several OIC members have abstained on the resolution in the past, that the four other East African Community (EAC) members always abstain and that general support for the resolution has diminished over the years. Sebulime said the EAC does not coordinate on this resolution, and that it is in Uganda's interest to support OIC-sponsored resolutions. Sebulime said that Uganda sees the resolution as neither helpful nor harmful to the Ugandan context, but understands that OIC countries believe the resolution is necessary to limit hateful, violence-inciting speech that denigrates religions.  
LANIER